

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126777

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

AID-20 ISO-00 PA-04 OIC-04 H-03 PRS-01 EUR-25 /102 R

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R 140009Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 126777

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:A G, SGEN, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO 94TH EXBD

1. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS THAT USDEL SEEK TO HAVE EXBD PLACE ITEM ON AGENDA FOR 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE THAT WOULD SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS UNESCO'S EFFORTS IN REGARD TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE BROAD CONTEXT OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY, EMPLOYMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IN THE POLITICAL SPHERE.

2. OUR REVIEW OF UNESCO'S CURRENT PROGRAMS, PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR 1975 AND OBJECTIVES TO BE USED FOR MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING (RE: OBJECTIVE 1.6 IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 126777

18C/4) LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT THIS IS STILL A MUCH

NEGLECTED AREA THAT URGENTLY REQUIRES A MORE DYNAMIC RESPONSE FROM THE TOP MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION.

3. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE PERIODICALLY COMMENTED UPON SPECIFIC UNESCO PROGRAMS, SUCH AS THOSE LISTED IN 18C/5, AND PLAN TO CONTINUE TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE PLIGHT OF WOMEN WHEN SPECIFIC ISSUES ARISE WHICH AFFORD THE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH COMMENT, WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS HIGH TIME THIS ISSUE RECEIVE TOP VISIBILITY AND CONSIDERATION THAT CAN ONLY COME FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

4. AS YOU KNOW, RECENT COURT DECISIONS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTION (E.G., THE PERCY AMENDMENT TO THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1973) HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT INTEREST AND CONCERN IN THIS QUESTION ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE126777
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FHLAWTON:RR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740154-0529
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740644/aaaabldk.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2002 by phillir0>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO 94TH EXBD
TAGS: AORG, SGEN, UNESCO
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005